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**UTTOXETER
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1947

**COUNCIL OFFICES,
NORTHGATE,
UTTOXETER.**

AUGUST, 1948.

F. A. HARPER, UTTOXETER

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TO THE CHAIRMAN & MEMBERS OF THE
UTTOXETER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Uttoxeter Rural District Council for the year 1947.

The office of Medical Officer of Health was held during the first quarter of the year by Dr. G. H. Herbert, whom I succeeded on 1st April 1947. It is with great pleasure that I take this opportunity of expressing my sincere thanks to Dr. Herbert for the kindness and helpfulness which he showed me as I took up my appointment.

Mr. C. E. Ingham was Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector during 1947 until his retirement at the end of that year, having then held office for a total of seventeen years. This long and able service has been warmly recognised by the Council. My thanks are due to him and to the other officials of the Council for their courtesy and co-operation throughout the year. I am indebted to Mr. S. C. Drabble, who succeeded Mr. C. E.

Ingham, as your Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, for certain particulars with reference to the Sanitary Circumstances of your Area.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The Vital Statistics for your District for the year 1947 show little alteration in certain respects when compared with those of 1946. Thus the number of births in 1947, 175, is only one less than the births in 1946, 176, while in both 1947 and 1946 the number of deaths was 109.

The still birth rate, however, of 22.2 in 1946 fell to 5.7 in 1947, while the infantile mortality rate rose from 39.8 in 1946 to the unduly high figure of 62.9 in 1947.

Eleven children died during the year, of less than one year of age. It must be noted that of these eleven deaths, no less than nine occurred during the first month of life, and they may therefore be mainly attributed to factors operating before birth. Such infant deaths as these are closely associated with the health of the expectant mother. They form that portion of the total number of deaths of infants about whose causes for example prematurity or congenital malformation, least is known, and which are therefore the most difficult to prevent. These deaths in the first month, or neo-natal deaths, cannot, in so far as the child itself is concerned, be related directly to social or environmental factors in the same way as can the deaths of infants between the end of the first month and the end of the first year of life. These deaths may rather be an index of the fact that the member of the family, whose health is most likely to suffer, under present day restrictions, is the young mother of a family who will deny herself in favour of her children. Everything possible should be done at the present time to ease the lot of the young housewife. The green ration book is a step in this direction, and an expectant mother should not hesitate to make use of this privilege. Times of stress may arise during pregnancy and at these times domestic help in the home may be invaluable. During the year under review a domestic help service was not available to Rural Authorities. Such a service is, however, under the National

Health Service Act, 1946, visualised for Rural as well as Urban areas and every effort should be made to establish such a service. Finally the young mother should make full use of all the dietary supplements which are available to her.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. D. C. S. CAMERON.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	..	..	..	..	55,228 acres
Registrar General's Estimate of Resident Population (mid 1947)	..	..	..	..	9,900
Number of Inhabited Houses at the end of 1947, according to the Rate Books	..	..	..	..	2,744
Rateable Value	..	..	..	..	£44,372
Sum represented by the product of 1d. Rate	..	..	..	..	£214

The main industry carried on in the Rural District continues to be dairy farming, and most of the population in each of the seventeen parishes of the District are engaged either directly or indirectly in agriculture. In addition the cotton mill at Rocester, and the silk mill at Mayfield give employment to many of the residents in these villages, which along with Abbots Bromley comprise the three principal villages of the District. Despite the progress already made in house construction, there remained in the Rural District during 1947 an urgent demand for improved accommodation, the satisfaction of which is the main social problem at the present time.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births.

				Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	..	..	..	78	88	166
Illegitimate	..	..	..	5	4	9
TOTAL				83	92	175
Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population	..	..	..	17.7		

Still Births.

				Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	—	—	—
Illegitimate	—	1	1
TOTAL				—	1	1

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births 5.4

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population .. 0.1

Deaths.

				Males	Females	Total
				54	55	109
Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated population					..	11.0
Deaths from Puerperal Causes	..	..	..	..	..	Nil

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age.

				Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	..	..	..	5	6	11
Illegitimate	..	..	..	—	—	—
TOTAL				5	6	11

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age.

All infants per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	62.9
Legitimate infants per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	62.9
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	..	..	..	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	..	..	..	20
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	..	..	..	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	..	..	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	..	..	..	Nil

Principal Causes of Death in Uttoxeter Rural District

CAUSE OF DEATH.				Males	Females	Total
Heart Diseases	..	..	..	11	14	25
All other Causes	..	..	..	14	8	22
Cancer	..	..	..	11	9	20
Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	..	..	..	2	6	8
Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	..	..	..	2	2	4
Other Digestive Diseases	..	..	..	—	4	4
Congenital Malform : Birth Injury :						
Infant Disease	..	..	..	3	1	4

	Males	Females	Total
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System..	3	1	4
Bronchitis	2	1	3
Premature Birth	2	1	3
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio encephalitis	2	—	2
Pneumonia	—	2	2
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ..	—	2	2
Nephritis	—	2	2
Other forms of Tuberculosis ..	1	—	1
Influenza	—	1	1
Other Respiratory Disease ..	—	1	1
Road Traffic Accident	1	—	1
	<hr/>		
TOTAL	54	55	109
	<hr/>		

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Laboratory Facilities.—Laboratory facilities were provided as in previous years by the Staffordshire County Council in Stafford. As from 1st September 1947 the County Bacteriological and Pathological Laboratory at Stafford was transferred to the Public Health Laboratory Service, which is directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health. Local medical practitioners as well as the public health department continued to take advantage of the extensive facilities which are provided free of charge. Samples were also submitted to the Chemical Laboratory by the public health department from time to time.

Ambulance Facilities.—A twenty-four hour ambulance service continued to be provided during the year by two ambulances which are garaged in Uttoxeter and which belong respectively to the Uttoxeter Urban District Council and to the St. John's Ambulance Brigade.

These two ambulances dealt with all types of cases other than cases of Infectious Disease, which were removed to hospital in ambulances provided by the Mid-Staffordshire Joint Hospitals Board. Parts of the Rural District remote from Uttoxeter made use as in former years of ambulances belonging to adjacent District Councils.

Nursing in the Home.—An efficient home nursing service was again available during the year. The seventeen parishes of the Rural District are grouped as follows for this purpose, one nurse being available to each group of parishes.

1. Okeover, Stanton, Mayfield, Wootton, Ramshorn and Ellastone.
2. Rocester and Denstone.
3. Leigh, Kingstone (Gratwich only) and Croxden.
4. Uttoxeter Rural, and Kingstone (except Gratwich).
5. Abbots Bromley and Blithfield.
6. Marchington and Draycott-in-the-Clay.
7. Newborough.

Hospitals and Treatment Centres.—There are not any hospitals, treatment centres, or clinics in the Rural District, and the following arrangements obtained during the year.

Infectious Disease.—Cases of infectious disease which required hospitalisation were treated at the Wissage Isolation Hospital at Lichfield. This Isolation Hospital is one of those administered by the Mid-Staffordshire Joint Hospitals Board, of which this Council is a constituent authority.

General Medical and Surgical Cases.—General medical and surgical cases requiring institutional treatment went mainly to the Infirmaries at Derby, Stoke-on-Trent, Stafford, and Burton-on-Trent.

Maternity and Gynaecological Cases.—Maternity and gynaecological cases were mainly admitted to the Derbyshire Hospital for Women in Derby, the North Staffs Royal Infirmary, Stoke-on-Trent, and the Ashbourne Maternity Home.

Clinics.

Tuberculosis Dispensary.—The Staffordshire, Wolverhampton and Dudley Joint Board for Tuberculosis provide a Tuberculosis Dispensary in Balance Street, Uttoxeter. Sessions are held each Thursday at 10.30 a.m. and the Dispensary is available to residents in your District.

Minor Ailments Clinic.—A Minor Ailments Clinic for school children is provided by the Staffordshire County Council. This clinic is held each Friday morning in the Congregational Sunday School, Carter Street, Uttoxeter and it is attended by children resident in the Rural District, some of whom attend school in Uttoxeter.

Infant Welfare Clinic.—An infant welfare clinic is held each Friday afternoon in Uttoxeter and an increasing number of mothers from your district brought their children to this clinic during the year. This clinic is provided by the Welfare Authority for your area, the Staffordshire County Council.

Ante-Natal Clinic.—This clinic is also provided in Uttoxeter by the Staffordshire County Council. Sessions are held fortnightly on Friday afternoons and the clinic was attended during the year by a number of mothers from the Rural District.

Dental Clinic.—Dental advice and treatment is available to school children, expectant and nursing mothers and toddlers, from the Rural District, at the Dental Clinic which is maintained in Uttoxeter by the Staffordshire County Council. Very valuable work continued to be done at this clinic throughout 1947.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Public Cleansing.

On the 5th May 1947, the Council instituted a direct labour service for the collection and disposal of household refuse. The scheme provided for a fortnightly collection throughout the District but various teething troubles were experienced so that by the end of the year the entire area was not getting the service which had been visualised.

It was found that a larger vehicle was in fact required and this it is hoped to obtain in the future. The use of the present vehicle owing to its limited carrying capacity has

necessitated making use of multiple tips throughout the District, each of which is a potential source of nuisance. It should be possible when the new vehicle is obtained to cut down the number of these tips and thereafter the institution of a system of controlled tipping will require the attention of the Council.

Rodent Control.

As from December 1947 the Council has employed a part-time Rodent Operator and the organisation set up for rat destruction has been approved by the Rodent Division of the Ministry of Agriculture. Rat infestation of the area is on the whole, light, though adjacent to military camp sites at Marchington and Draycott-in-the-Clay and at Abbots Bromley it has been found to be heavy.

WATER SUPPLY.

The various sources of the water supply of your District are indicated below.

Mayfield This parish is supplied from a borehole owned by this Council, the water from which is pumped to a reservior on high ground.
Denstone	} These parishes receive a piped supply in bulk, from the Uttoxeter Urban District Council.
Rocester	
Stramshall, and	} Receive a supply in bulk from the South Staffordshire Waterworks Co. Ltd.
Bramshall (part)	
Abbots Bromley	
Kingstone (part)	
Newborough (part)	
Draycott-in-the-Clay (part)	
Marchington (part)	
Bramshall (part)	

The following villages rely mainly on surface wells and springs, except in those cases where deep well supplies have been provided as part of an estate water scheme or at certain farms as a result of grants from the War Agricultural Executive Committee :

Ellastone	Marchington Woodlands
Ramshorn	Wootton
Stanton	

Certain farms situated in parts of your District adjacent to the Cheadle Rural District boundary obtain supplies from that Authority.

The Council are preparing water schemes for those parts of their area which do not at present receive a piped supply. Thus during 1947 a scheme for the Hoar Cross District of Abbots Bromley parish was drawn up, while schemes were under consideration for the following parts of your District :

Marchington Woodlands	Stanton
Ellastone	Stubwood
Beamhurst and Leigh	

The water supply generally was again of good quality throughout the year. Samples of the piped water supplies were examined at regular intervals. No plumbo-solvent action has been observed in the water supply of your District. No action was necessary on account of contamination of piped water supplies.

The results of analysis of samples of the various water supplies were satisfactory both from the bacteriological and chemical point of view.

The number of dwelling houses and the approximate population supplied with water directly from public mains is shown below for each parish.

PARISH	Population of Parish—1939	Number of houses with piped water supply	Estimated population with a piped water supply
Abbots Bromley ..	1,574	192	861
Blithfield ..	267	24	108
Croxden	316	10	43
Denstone ..	888	71	312
Draycott-in-the-Clay	499	63	280
Ellastone ..	324	Nil	Nil
Kingstone ..	271	52	231
Leigh	939	188	845
Marchington ..	859	62	276
Mayfield ..	1,269	310	1,085
Newborough ..	495	39	173
Okeover	55	Nil	Nil
Ramshorn ..	57	Nil	Nil
Rocester	1,177	262	1,174
Stanton	284	Nil	Nil
Uttoxeter Rural ..	983	95	422
Wootton	147	Nil	Nil

The number of dwelling houses and the approximate population supplied from water mains by means of stand pipes are both nil.

SEWERAGE.

No new works of sewerage and sewage disposal, and no extensions or additions were made during 1947.

The sewerage schemes for Abbots Bromley, Mayfield and Rocester are urgently required to abate serious conditions of nuisance. Sewerage schemes for these villages have been submitted to the Ministry of Health and to Staffordshire County Council and approval is awaited.

During the year the question of the sewerage of the parishes of Draycott-in-the-Clay, Marchington and Newborough were under consideration.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

The various factories in the Rural District were inspected throughout the year under review. A sanitary defect was found on one occasion and the attention of the occupier was drawn to it. The defect was not actually made good during the year but a plan has been submitted with respect to it.

HOUSING.

During the year under review progress continued to be made in house construction. Thirty-two houses were completed during 1947, while a further twenty houses were in course of construction.

The completed houses are sited as follows :

PARISH	Number of Houses Completed		
Denstone	12
Newborough	4
Kingstone	10
Draycott-in-the-Clay	6
TOTAL			<u>32</u>

In addition to the erection of these houses by the Council, three houses and one flat were erected and completed by private enterprise during the year for owner-occupiers, while one further house in the same category was under construction.

Five derelict buildings were re-constructed and made available for habitation. Two large houses were converted into four separate units of accommodation and one large mansion was converted into five flats. One large house was converted into dormitories for a private boarding school in the District.

CIVIL BUILDING LICENCES.

During the year 317 licences were issued and allocated as follows :

New Houses and conversions .. ..	..	13
Major repairs and alterations to existing houses ..	..	21
Minor repairs and alterations, including installation of Baths, etc. .. ..	..	156
Repairs and alterations to Farm Property ..	..	77
Repairs and alterations to other Buildings ..	..	49

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

During the year all cattle with the exception of those slaughtered in an emergency were killed at the central slaughterhouse in Uttoxeter and meat inspection was carried

out at the slaughterhouse by an Authorised Officer of the Uttoxeter Urban District Council.

In the Rural District there is one private slaughterhouse at which casualties only are dealt with. This slaughterhouse was visited immediately on receipt of notice of slaughter and the meat in question carefully inspected.

There is a knacker's yard on an adjacent site and this was also kept under supervision.

Routine inspection of shops and bakeries in your District were carried out during the year.

The premises of all vendors of ice cream in the Rural District were visited and conditions were found to be satisfactory. The attention of all vendors of ice cream was drawn to the provisions of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During the year the following notifications of Infectious Disease were received :

INFECTIOUS DISEASE					Number of Cases	
Measles	108
Whooping Cough	18
Scarlet Fever	9
Acute Pneumonia	2
Acute Polioencephalitis	1
Opthalmia Neonatorum	1
Erysipelas	1
TOTAL					..	140

Of these the following cases were admitted to hospital :

INFECTIOUS DISEASE					Number admitted to Hospital	
Scarlet Fever	5
Polioencephalitis	1
Measles	1
Whooping Cough	1
Opthalmia Neonatorum	1
TOTAL					..	9

Analysis of Total Cases Notified According to Age Groups

DISEASE		AGE PERIOD IN YEARS											
		Under 1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years	5-10 years	10-15 years	15-20 years	20-35 years	35-45 years	45 years and over	TOTAL
Measles	3	10	13	7	8	37	21	3	6			108
Whooping Cough	4	4	4	3		2	1					18
Scarlet Fever						5	2		1	1		9
Pneumonia											2	2
Acute Polioencephalitis										1		1
Opthalmia Neonatorum	1											1
Erysipelas										1		1

POLOMYELITIS AND POLIOENCEPHALITIS

The first notification of a case of one of the above diseases was received during the second week of July 1947. It referred to a rapidly fatal case of Polioencephalitis which occurred in the absence of any overt cases of poliomyelitis in the immediate vicinity. No other case of either poliomyelitis or polioencephalitis was disclosed until the end of September, when a second case of polioencephalitis which was even more rapidly fatal, occurred. In November one case of poliomyelitis with paralysis of one limb occurred.

These three cases were all resident in parts of your District remote from one another. The outstanding feature was that two out of the three cases took the form of fatal polioencephalitis and that although the reception of the first notification synchronised with the commencement of the increase in the number of notifications for the country as a whole, there were so few other apparent cases of poliomyelitis with or without paralysis revealed throughout the District. All three cases were male. Two cases were aged 35 years, while the third was aged 19 years.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

During 1947 the Uttoxeter Rural District Council co-operated with the Staffordshire County Council in its campaign to secure the immunisation of as many children as possible against diphtheria. Arrangements were made for advertisements to appear in the local Press and several trailer films were shown at the cinemas in Uttoxeter by courtesy of the management of the Elite Cinema, Uttoxeter.

There is no doubt that the great majority of parents in your District favour this form of inoculation. Active health education, however, requires to be continuously carried on by all concerned with this work in order to ensure that a maximum number of children are immunised as soon as they reach a suitable age.

Arrangements existed throughout the year whereby it was possible for parents to have their children immunised free of charge either by their own family doctor or at the welfare centre in Uttoxeter. There is no doubt that in a rural area such as your District comprises, where many children are

resident in parts of the District remote from Uttoxeter, the bulk of the work must fall to be done by the general practitioner. It is by parents making greater use of the free immunisation by the family doctor which is available that an increase in the number of children immunised will be obtained.

The number of children in the Uttoxeter Rural District who completed a full course of primary immunisation during 1947 was as follows :

Children of less than five years of age	..	..	85
Children aged five to fourteen years	..	..	1
	TOTAL	..	<u>86</u>

In addition thirty-three children of school age received a single reinforcing dose during the year.

New Cases. TUBERCULOSIS.

Three new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year.

There were not any cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified during the year.

Deaths.

There were four deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

There was one death from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

The age and sex distribution of these new cases and deaths were as shown below.

	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year								
1 year ..								
Five years ..								
15 years ..	1	1						
25 years ..					1		1	
35 years ..		1				1		
45 years ..					2			
55 years ..								
65 years and upwards								
TOTAL ..	1	2			3	1	1	
Death Rate from Tuberculosis ..								.50
Death Rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis								.40
Death Rate from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis								.10

